

**Vote Socialist Worker Student Society...**

# SHEREEN PRASAD

**#1 for Vice-President Society and Citizenship**

- Build a movement against the cuts. Fight back now!
- Stand up in unity against the fascists, racists and bigots
- Free all political prisoners – defend the right to protest
- Victory to the Arab revolutions, freedom for Palestine

## **Build a movement against the cuts**

**S**tudents and young people are at the forefront of fighting cuts and austerity. Why should we pay for a crisis caused by the tiny elite that runs our economic system? We can and should resist these attacks—with walkouts, strikes and occupations.

We're told we have to until the 2015 election before we can do anything about this. And then all we can do is vote Labour back into power.

But NUS is at its best when it fights against injustice, exploitation and oppression. And that means fighting now, not waiting another two years.

That's what students in Greece, Quebec and across Spain are doing. They are part of mass movements that challenge the austerity politics of the "one per cent".

We need to bring the spirit and lessons of these movements into NUS and into the student movement as a whole. I want to help create such a movement and put students at the heart of it. We should all be campaigning to defend education, the NHS, affordable



Fighting for free education

housing and decent benefits. And we need to fight back against the racist immigration rules and the fascist poison of the EDL and BNP.

## **Stand up in unity against the fascists, racists and bigots**

Every time governments try to force through cuts they look for convenient scapegoats to blame.

That is what the Tories are doing when they launch attacks against Muslims, asylum seekers, international students, people on benefits and other vulnerable or marginalised groups in society.

This bigotry fuel violence on the streets from the likes of the English Defence League. It boosts the confidence of racists, sexists and homophobes everywhere and makes life

a misery for the rest of us.

We must reject this divisive poison and stand up in solidarity with all oppressed people.

We cannot be complacent about the threat of fascist organisations in Britain. Just look at Greece, where austerity and cuts have fuelled the rise of Golden Dawn, a group of violent neo-Nazi thugs.

## **Build a mass movement against austerity – Vote SWSS**

- **Tomas Evans #1 for Vice-President Higher Education**
- **Shereen Prasad #1 for Society and Citizenship**



**Demonstrating against the cuts with strikers on N30**

In the student movement we have a proud tradition of resisting the Nazis. We do not allow them to spread their hatred on campus and we do not give them free publicity or free rein to incite attacks on minority.

That is why I support “no platform” for fascist organisations like the BNP and EDL. We should not be promoting figures like the BNP’s Nick Griffin—a convicted Holocaust denier—in our student newspapers or debating societies.

Giving the likes of Griffin platforms or interviews just hands him the publicity and respectability that he craves. It helps bring fascism into the mainstream.

I live in Walthamstow in north east London where last year we drove the racist thugs of the EDL off our streets.

I helped mobilise for the Unite Against Fascism demonstration in my college and in local youth clubs. This was an inspiring experience that transformed many of my friends.

It has helped us fight oppression on many fronts, helping us defend our Muslim brothers and sisters as well as giving us the confidence to challenge homophobia and other forms of bullying in college.

## **Free all political prisoners – defend the right to protest**

Over the past few years we’ve seen inspiring protests and strikes against Tory plans to privatise the health service and price ordinary students out of higher education.

But we have also seen a worrying

trend of students and activists being victimised for exercising their rights to protest.

NUS must defend our right to protest. It’s shocking to see fellow students like Alfie Meadows being dragged to court time and time again on charges of “disorder”.

We have to say that an injury to one is an injury to all. If elected I will campaign to defend everyone in our movement facing charges for taking part in protests against this rotten government.

## **Victory to the Arab revolutions, freedom for Palestine**

Millions of people have been inspired by the mass movements that are sweeping away dictators across the Arab world.

I marched with the Global Intifada Bloc on the NUS demonstration on 21 November last year. I helped organise the only FE walkout that day from City & Islington College in north London.

Many students came along that day because they wanted to bring back EMA. Others wanted to demand that Israel stop bombing the innocent people of Gaza. For many it was all these issues and more.

The fight for Palestinian liberation has politicised an entire generation. Yet our union continues to flip-flop on the question of Palestine.

I want to put solidarity for Palestine at the heart of our union.

Students played an inspiring role in the struggle against apartheid South Africa in the 1980s. We can and must do the same today for the struggling people of Egypt, Syria and Palestine.

## **Why we’re supporting Shereen**

*It’s great to see a FE student like Shereen stand for an NUS position. We need a new generation of activists to fight for a different vision of society in our colleges, our streets and our national union. We need students like Shereen who will challenge the status quo, encourage activism and challenge the Tory politics of fear. Shereen has my vote!*

**Matt Stanley**  
NUS NEC

*I’ve known Shereen from countless demonstrations against the fascist English Defence League. Wherever fascists, racists and bigots have raised their heads, Shereen has been challenging them and mobilising against them. Shereen comes from the anti-fascist movement and knows how to build the broadest possible unity against the fascists. That’s why we need her in our national union.*

**Vicki Baars**  
NUS vice president for union development

*Shereen’s commitment to political and social change is admirable. Unlike many of our elected officers she successfully mobilised students for #demo2012 and the Global Intifada Bloc. It’s unusual for a FE student to have been part of so many political activities. She has a bright future inside NUS—and even brighter future in the movements for social justice.*

**Nathan Bolton**  
Essex University SU President

*Shereen is a tireless anti-fascist who played a key role in stopping the racist English Defence League from tearing up her local community in Walthamstow. Her principled politics will make her indispensable to our NUS in the coming year. Vote Shereen #1 for VP Society and Citizenship.*

**Søren Goard,**  
Goldsmiths College SU vice president for education

*Electing an FE candidate with Shereen’s record be a welcome break from the way NUS is currently being run. I want to see a democratic and campaigning NUS with liberation at its heart, a union that takes a stand on national and international issues. Shereen is the candidate that can do this.*

**Jamie Woodcock**  
NUS NEC